

CLAIMS

1. Botanic extracts containing – based on the active substance content – at least 15 and preferably 20 to 25% by weight of oligomeric proanthocyanidins of the OPC A2 type which can be obtained by
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- (a) subjecting shells of the fruit of *Litchi sinensis* to extraction with lower, optionally aqueous aliphatic alcohols,
 - (b) subjecting the extracts to chromatographic separation, optionally after concentration and/or filtration,
 - 10 (c) subjecting the OPC A2-rich fraction obtained in the chromatography step to a liquid/liquid extraction and
 - (d) removing the resulting organic phase.
2. Extracts as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that they contain 20
- 15 to 25% by weight OPC A2.
3. A process for the production of botanic extracts containing at least 15% by weight of oligomeric proanthocyanidins of the OPC A2 type, characterized in that it comprises the steps of
- 20 (a) subjecting shells of the fruit of *Litchi sinensis* to extraction with lower, optionally aqueous aliphatic alcohols,
 - (b) subjecting the extracts to chromatographic separation, optionally after concentration and/or filtration,
 - (c) subjecting the OPC A2-rich fraction obtained in the chromatography
 - 25 step to a liquid/liquid extraction and
 - (d) removing the resulting organic phase.
4. A process as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that optionally aqueous methanol or ethanol is used.
- 30 5. A process as claimed in claims 3 and/or 4, characterized in that the

extraction is carried out at temperatures of 30 to 70°C.

6. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 3 to 5, characterized in that the chromatographic separation is carried out in a column of which the coating has no functional groups.

5 7. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that the chromatographic separation is carried out with mobile solvents selected from the group of aliphatic alcohols containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

8. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 3 to 7, characterized
10 in that the liquid/liquid extraction is carried out using water-immiscible solvents.

9. The use of extracts of *Litchi sinensis* for the production of food supplements.

10. The use of the extracts claimed in claim 1 for the production of
15 cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparations.